

## The Old Army Game

There sometimes are more than two sides to a question.

The GIs of World War II had an expression for it which we're sure must still be vogue: There are three ways of doing a job: the right way, the wrong way, and the Army way.

Such must be the choices now put to those who have been brought together as a committee to review and make recommendations on the needed revisions in the city's charter.

Opening rounds of discussion on the city's charter gave birth almost immediately to a controversy over specifics of the matter with the mayor challenging the position of the city manager on his authority over department heads.

We think they are both wrong in the undisguised zeal with which they are seeking to advance their own positions.

Whether heads of major city departments should be more responsive to the city manager is something the committee and eventually the voters will have to decide. Some changes probably are indicated to correct a system which could give an unsuitable city executive a blanket of job security enjoyed by very few outside of public service.

How far the public should go in handing authority to its city administrators is a question which has no clear cut answers.

The zeal of professional administrators to reduce the number and importance of elective officers and to gather that authority to themselves is a national phenomenon.

At the same time, strong elected officials—councilmen, mayors, clerks, treasurers, legal advisers—often display an equal zeal in gathering to themselves a full measure of authority.

It is such a conflict in which Torrance now finds itself. Open discussions by those on the battle line is one of the surest ways we know to establish a basis for understanding the problems.

In Torrance, the front line generals are the city manager and the mayor. The course of their pursuits can only lead to confrontations. We've had the first.

## More Jobs Needed

During the past few months, the California Industrial Welfare Commission has been holding hearings throughout the state to receive testimony on a proposed increase of the state minimum wage to \$1.65 an hour for minors and women.

The testimony has been voluminous — against it. Increasing minimum wages at first looks like another step toward the life in which everybody is a little wealthier, has a capability of living better, spending more. You would think such a proposal would whirl the wheels of commerce just a little faster.

According to the best information we can gather from the California State Chamber of Commerce and other organizations which specialize in economic facts, this is illogical.

The California economy, to remain healthy, must provide about 200,000 new jobs each year. This is nothing to be afraid of unless there are factors introduced which could stifle the natural expansion of the economy.

The best way of spreading the benefits of prosperity to more people would be to create more jobs. This means expansion and diversification of our industrial base — new industries, expansion of home industries, the introduction of satellite industries.

More and more of the nation's industries are looking toward California. The westward expansion of the country's industrial base is a continuing thing. But today, California is the most expensive labor market in the nation. So much so, in fact, that many companies are hesitant about expanding or relocating in California.

An increase in the state minimum wage for unskilled labor will increase that apprehension. Because this will not only increase the cost of using unskilled labor far above the nation's average, but it will also balloon all labor costs.

We believe an increase in the minimum wage at this time will put an unnecessary burden on many of California's industries and will discourage rather than encourage employment.

We believe the California Industrial Welfare Commission would serve a greater public purpose by taking another look at its proposed minimum wage increase.

## Opinions of Others

More than once we have heard the wry remark that "we ought to try to get that one-eyed general that conducted the Israel campaign to take hold of our forces in South Vietnam," but we wonder if that would help, were we to keep all the restrictions on him that have been imposed on our generals in that theater of operations. The chief difference as we see it is that Israel simply went all out to get the job done, while we have been fighting a limited war, restricted by various "don'ts" from the Pentagon brains in Washington. You just can't win that way.—East Dubuque (Ill.) Register.

Under the American system of government, you can't bully your way into society. Those who choose this course eventually will destroy all their chances for social and economic equality. We sincerely believe the majority race in our nation has done much — and still has much to do — to erase the injustices of the past 100 years. We also believe that the minority race is now being handicapped more by its own so-called leaders than it has been by its previous oppressors.—Wynne (Ark.) Progress.

## The Label



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## Central Casting Blamed For Putting Ky in Role

Now tethered in the courtyard of Attorney Mel Belli's magnificent law offices on Montgomery St., a pygmy African goat named Cassius. A birthday gift to Belli from a partner, Atty. Bill Choulos . . . Rose Goldstein, the great lady who costumes the San Francisco Opera, was crying, "Gimme some skin!" the other day. And literally. Somebody broke into her Market St. workshop and made off with the animal skins she was working into costumes for "Macbeth." Rose, through a glass darkly: "Must have been hippies — who else would want animal skins?" Naked animals? . . . I read Town & Country magazine once in a while, for the laughs, and the current issue contains a howler — a diagram purporting to show the favorite tables of prominent San Franciscans in five restaurants (Vic's, Alexis, La Bourgoigne, Ernie's, Blue Fox). At least two of the "prominents" listed have been dead for some time. Long divorced or separated couples are listed together. The misspellings

and misplacings are numerous (Jim Ludwig, placed at La Bourgoigne, smiles "we went there once five years ago and haven't been back"). And it was the first time I know that Fred Astaire, Marlene Dietrich, and Frank Sinatra are San Franciscans. Why not Lord Louis Mountbatten? . . . Marshal Ky, the savior, has made many a remarkable remark but none to top this one the other day:

### San Francisco

"We are going ahead with elections even if there are no candidates left" — which I'm sure is what he had in mind all along . . . How did we get stuck with this guy, anyway? The way I see it, a producer at Pentagon Productions called Central Casting in Hollywood and said: "Send us a sleazy Southeast Asia-type dictator. Dress him in a 50 mission cap with oversize eagle and a black jumpsuit with some fruit salad. Oh, and throw in a yellow silk scarf and a wife who had her eyes fixed." Keye Luke wasn't available so they sent Ky, who was at liberty. Or at liberty's throat . . . The same week that Ky promised free and democratic elections without candidates, Sen. Fulbright produced a line that will go down in history: "The price of empire is America's soul and that price is too high."

## Quote

It is time for us to adapt the speed, mobility and obvious ability to avoid snarl-ups that make helicopters a natural tool of mercy. — Assemblyman Joe A. Gonsalves (D-La Mirada), on the use of helicopters as ambulances.

Recent studies of bail projects to help the poor have established that persons conditionally released pending their trial who were not required to put up bail had a better record of appearance at their trials than those that put up bail. — Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose), on the need to overhaul the bail system.

## Morning Report:

After toasting myself — backside and brains equally — for a month in sunny Hawaii, problems here on the mainland seem quite simple. Easy to solve.

Like all the arguments about what caused the snipers in the riots, The President has appointed a commission. The Congress has appointed a committee. And self-appointed experts are sounding off daily.

The answer is easier than all that. Just take away the guns. Some 2,000,000 were sold last year alone. Not all went to black snipers in the North. A lot went to white snipers in the South as well.

For starters then, let's support our police and firemen by disarming the people who are shooting at them. Next question.

Abe Mellinkoff

## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# Litter Bags for Boaters Slips by Budget Watchers

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR

Capital News Service  
SACRAMENTO—Some of the trivialities of government expenditure, minor though they are in single instances, can multiply into unnecessary disbursements of public money running into significant figures as far as the taxpayer is concerned.

Such a triviality was disclosed last week when the department of harbors and watercraft, in the resources agency, announced it is "giving away" 50,000 waterproof litter bags, especially designed for use of California boaters.

N. W. Sprow, director of the department, said apparently with some regret that "we can't provide litter bags for California's more than a million boaters."

Consequently, a favored few owners of boats will be provided with the bags at a cost of four and a half cents each to the taxpayers.

"We want to prove," Sprow said, "how easy it is to take garbage, cans, bottles and other picnic refuse back to shore for proper disposal."

General Andrew R. Loll, director of the state department of general services,

was a bit chagrined, to say the least, when he was apprised of the litter bag incident.

The general has dedicated himself to the policy of cutting down state expenditures, big and little, and in accomplishing a creditable record in effecting decreases, without hampering the efficiency of state government. But the litter bag order, amounting to only \$2,266, escaped the eagle eyes of Loll and his staff of officers in the department of general services, which okays the purchases of other departments.

If the state embarked on an anti-litter campaign of similar nature to cover all citizens holding boating licenses and driving automobiles, it was pointed out, along the same lines, it would have to buy some nine million litter bags. Motorists cause just as much or more litter as do boat owners, probably because there are nine times as many.

Loll pointed out, however, that sections of the penal code have provisions against littering the highways and waterways of the state, providing fines or imprisonment upon convictions of violators. So far, there have been few convictions and few arrests, and the litter-bug continues to befool both the highways and waterways.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Production Offers Base For New Lincoln Myths

When they hanged John Brown in 1859 for the homicidal raid on Harper's Ferry, a Virginia militia company was on guard. The Virginians feared northern abolitionists would make good their threat to rescue Brown by force, but nothing happened.

In the militia company was a tense youth of 20 named John Wilkes Booth. He was an arrogant little fancy man, not liked by his colleagues, and unfortunately nobody had the foresight to interview him on the state of the country.

The other day Alfred Frankenstein reviewed a new play about the Lincoln assassination, "White House Happening," staged almost entirely by amateur actors at Cambridge, Mass.

As Mr. Frankenstein describes the drama, it throws a weird light on the assassination eve, and the critic says the interpretation is "a bit difficult to accept." It will if anything add to the "myths after Lincoln," but it is timely in view of the myths after Kennedy.

The scene is the presidential office as Lincoln and his wife are preparing to drive to Ford's Theater. The playwright's thesis is that Lincoln knew of a plot to murder him, and accepted it so passively as to constitute co-operation.

According to the author, Lincoln felt somebody had

### World Affairs

to be the scapegoat for the immense travail of four years, and he was the logical one. Lincoln's known plan to return the seceded states to the Union without vengeance on the Confederate leaders, stirred violent opposition in his party, and this is the basis for Lincoln's attitude in the play.

It is historically true that rumor-mongers immediately after the assassination dreamed up a high-level conspiracy and put Secretary of War Stanton at the head of it. Stanton aided this by his savage prosecution of other bumbling conspirators after Booth was slain. But there wasn't a shred of evidence for a Stanton plot.

One of the "fantasies" Mr. Frankenstein notes in the play is the fury of supposed high-level conspirators because Lincoln had ordered his field commanders to observe clemency.

Clemency there was, but Lincoln had no known connection with it. The idea arose from Grant's terms for Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and almost incidentally, Grant's initial terms did not mention sidearms and horses of Confederate officers. Lee said his officers owned their sidearms and horses, and they would need the latter for spring plowing. Grant said he would not change the written terms, but would instruct his parole officers not to claim sidearms and horses in the formal surrender. Lee murmured that this would have a "good effect on my men."

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Danes' Underground War A Classic Suspense Tale

Elliott Arnold's "A Night of Watching" could be the big novel of the summer. It is a substantial work (441 pages) skillfully brought off, and more informative in a historical sense than most summer selections of the Literary Guild, which it is. It is less than a permanent ornament in our cultural pantheon, it is brisk and rewarding summer reading that delineates a triumph of decency in a world inundated with hatred and death.

"We may not have thrilled the world with any kind of resistance," a Dane declares early in Arnold's story, "but we came up with the only German-occupied country where Jews are still unloathed."

That situation did not last. The Germans occupied Denmark in April of 1940 and agreed to a Copenhagen demand that Danish Jews be left alone. Danes were Danes, like Morton Torres, the international lawyer of this story, a descendant of a

Sephardic family that had fled Spain after the 15th Century. So for more than three and a half years, the Danish Jews were left alone. Then the Gestapo moved in, and the relatively stolid, un-

warlike Danes began to act. "A Night of Watching" is a suspense story of classic proportions. Beyond that, the historical details are largely true, if not widely known.

A total of slightly more than 8,000 Jews, including 686 half-Jews, were smuggled out of Denmark to Sweden, most of them during the first two weeks of October, 1943, in fleets of fishing boats. Another 460 Jews who were not alerted, or who refused to believe the alarm, were rounded up and sent to a concentration camp in Germany. The Danes applied what pressure on Nazi authorities they could muster. Most of those in the German camp were returned to their homeland

after the war. Thus, virtually the entire community of Danish Jews was saved.

Arnold presents his story in fictional terms, by means of several interwoven narratives. It begins when a German "traitor" informs a Danish underground leader that the Jews are to be rounded up on Yom Kippur. The character of the resistance leader of this novel, the quiet businessman Peter Hansen, is, the author tells us, based on several actual underground figures of that time.

"A Night of Watching," a heavily populated drama played with vigor and finesse, shows us that the Danes had the guts and organization equal to any of the more publicized European resistance groups. In an author's note, Arnold reminds us that upon liberating Denmark, British Field Marshal Montgomery commented that the Danish resistance was in all Europe "second to none." This book makes the most of that point.

## My Neighbors



"We look up a collection for you down at the plant, boss, and . . ."